Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00660 101806Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W

-----110419Z 119323 /13

R 101706Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7293 INFO USLO PEKING AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL REYKJAVIK 0660

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CH, IC

SUBJECT: COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR PETUR THORSTEINSSON, GOI'S AMBASSADOR TO PRC

DURING CZECH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION MAY 9, I ASKED PETUR THORSTEINSSON, WHO IS ICELAND'S NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO PRC AS WELL AS TO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO PEKING. THORSTEINSSON SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY WARMTH OF RECEPTION HE RECEIVED. HE INDICATED HE HAD EXPECTED TO MEET ONLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BUT WAS PLEASE TO LEARN AFTER HIS ARRIVAL HE WOULD BE RECEIVED BY FIRST VICE PREMIER, LI CHUNG-YEN (PHON). MEETING WITH FIRST VICE PREMIER LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR DURING WHICH EIGHT OHTER MEMBERS OF LI'S STAFF AND OF FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE PRESENT. LI, IN THORSTEINSSON'S OPINION, SEEMED REMARKABLY WELL INFORMED REGARDING ICELAND, ITS ECONOMY, AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. HE THOUGH IT SIGNIFICANT THAT LI RAISED SUBJECT OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN ICELAND AND SAID THAT WHILE IT IS NEVER PLEASANT TO HAVE FOREIGN TROOPS ON ONE'S SOIL, GIVEN ICELAND'S POSITION HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT IT SEEK TO RETAIN THEM. ACCORDING TO THORSTEINSSON CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY FOLLOWING DAY IN PEKING P ESS.
BLAKE

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
INN					

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Subject: COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR PETUR THORSTEINSSON, GOI\'S AMBASSADOR TO PRC DURING CZECH NATIONAL DAY

RECEPTION MAY 9, I ASKED
TAGS: PFOR, CH, IC, US, (THORSTEINSSON, PETUR)

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